

The Brethren Evangelist,

ASHLAND, OHIO.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1895.

THE TIME AT HAND.

The *Religious Telescope*, a few weeks ago asked this pointed question: "Will the conferences of the church, to convene in the near future, set a higher standard of qualification for admission to our ministry?"

This is a plain, practical question, and may well be put to our conference now in session. The time has come when we *must*, not only ask, but *demand* a higher standard of intellectual qualification for the ranks of the Christian ministry. Among the most vital and important questions that demand the immediate action of our conference is the question, How shall we secure a better qualified ministry? We hope the conference now in session will take some steps that will, in the near future, lead to this much desired result. One reason why there are not more young men preparing for the duties and responsibilities of the Christian ministry, seeking to attain that higher intellectual standard, is that practically we put a premium on incompetency by receiving young men with no preparation at all, lacking even a common school education, who cannot correctly write a message on a postal card, and too often they are given the most responsible positions in the church.

Many young men are sent out to preach who ought to be sent to school, preparing themselves more thoroughly for the work. If a young man does not possess the proper intellectual qualifications for the Christian ministry and does not have the means to secure them, then the congregation should do one of two things: Either not call him to the ministry, or send him to school after he is called. It is unfair and unjust, for any congregation to ask a young man to devote his time to the active duties of the ministry when he lacks the necessary intellectual qualifications. It partially cripples him for life, proving a great hindrance to a successful prosecution of his work.

The constant growing intelligence of the laity calls for a better qualified ministry. Will we heed the call, and raise the standard? We *must* educate our young

men and women who hope to enter the ministry. The time has come when license to preach must be given only to men who have the necessary educational qualifications and a fair theological training. This is an age of progress and improvement. We do not mean to progress away from the Gospel. The Gospel is the same to-day, yesterday, and forever. We want no other Gospel than the one Jesus gave us. But we want men to preach it with greater power. We are told that the twelve apostles were humble, ignorant fisherman. So they were. But they spent three years in the school of Christ, receiving instruction from him, and inspiration from his visible presence. And if a man can be a great power without intellectual training, how much more *with* such training. The greatest man in the apostolic church, the greatest man in the church of all time, was a man with a finished education, a man of profound learning. His name was Paul, he who did more for the cause of Christianity than any other one man. Besides, times have greatly changed. Instead of carrying the Gospel on foot as of old, the church avails itself of all the facilities of modern travel, for the rapid spread of the Gospel story. If it is our privilege to use these means of travel to carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth, shall we not make use of the mighty power which a thorough education affords one? When God now calls a young man to the ministry he lays on him the special obligation to seek all the educational qualification at his command.

We do not overlook the importance of the higher power which the Holy Spirit vouchsafes to one who comes under its influence. No matter how much education one may have, without the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, he can never make a success of the Christian ministry. But if you would have the Holy Spirit do its work, you must first do what *you* can. No matter how much of the Holy Spirit one may have, he cannot continue to do effective work, if he lacks the mental strength and knowledge which can be secured only by pursuing a regular course in college. God's grace and spirit only supplement our weakness and deficiencies *when we have honestly done what we can to rise above and overcome them.* A prominent lady, who had several sons in the Christian ministry, said: "It seems that the only qualification of most of our young ministers is license and a wife." This no doubt is an exaggeration, but

nevertheless there is a great deal of truth in it. Those who are now in school and who expect to remain to complete their course should be encouraged by this conference making intellectual training an essential qualification for the Christian ministry.

EDITORIAL BRIEFS.

If you have not seen the new catalogue, ask for it.

BROTHER J. D. McFaden will deliver his popular lecture entitled, "Tact," on Thursday evening of this week.

You will find the office of the Brethren Book and Tract committee in the College building, first door to the right, west side.

Do you want the best Bible made in America, or in any other country? You can have it at one-half the regular price.

THE next room to our office is the composing room, the one below this, in the basement, is the press room and joining it is the folding room.

STUDENTS have been coming in since last week, and from present indications the fall term, September 10, will open with a good attendance.

THIS conference has some very important work on hand, and in disposing of it, we should have but one object in view: The good of the Master's cause.

If you desire any information concerning our school, call on any of the professors—they are Christian gentlemen, and will gladly give you any information you may call for.

If you wish to renew your subscription, pay an old subscription, or transact any other business call at the office, where our clever clerk will be in readiness to accommodate you.

It is possible to be loyal to your church and yet not be narrow or sectarian in your views. Your *first* duty is to the church of your choice and to the institutions it aims to support. This is *loyalty*, not *sectarianism*.

THE September issue of *King's Children* contains eight pages, filled with good reading matter, also portraits of the National Board of Directors. It is to be hoped that its patrons will appreciate the tireless efforts of Brother Talley to make the young people of the Brethren church a great power for good.